

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 071834

FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT JIDDA 1538 DATED 16 APR 73 SENT ACTION
SECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO KHARTOUM KUWAIT TEL AVIV
TRIPOLI

QUOTE. S E C R E T JIDDA 1538

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: NON- US INVOLVEMENT IN ISRAELI RAID POINTED OUT TO
SAUDIS

REF: A. STATE 68250 B. JIDDA 1530 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CALLS FOR OTHER REASONS ON MINDEF
PRINCE SULTAN AND MININTERIOR PRINCE FAHD . I TOOK
OPPORTUNITY DESCRIBE OUR DEEP CONCERN WITH WHOLLY
UNBASED CHARGES THAT ELEMENTS OF USG INVOLVED IN SOME
FASHION WITH ISRAELI RAID AGAINST FEDAYEEN LEADERS IN
BEIRUT. I SAID I KNEW THAT SUCH CHARGES HAD NOT
EMANATED FROM ANY ELEMENT OF OFFICIAL SAUDI MEDIA AND
THAT PRESS HERE HAD NOT SUPPORTED THEM WITH EXCEPTION ONE
EDITORIAL IN ONE NEWSPAPER (REFTEL B). HOWEVER, I
THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT SAG UNDERSTAND HOW PARTICULARLY
DANGEROUS WE CONSIDERED INCITEMENTS TO MURDER AND ATTACK
ON AMERICAN CITIZENS WHICH HAD BEEN PUT OUT BY SOME ARAB
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MEDIA. WHOLE PROPAGANDA EFFORT TO IMPLICATE US IN ISRAELI RAID COULD DAMAGE OBJECTIVES WHICH US AND FRIENDLY ARAB GOVTS SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA JOINTLY SEEKING. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR WHATEVER SAG THOUGHT IT MIGHT DO RESTRAIN SUCH DANGEROUS DISSEMINATIONS. I DREW ATTENTION BOTH PRINCES TO STRONG DENIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY ASSTSEC SISCO.

2. IN OUR SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS BOTH PRINCES ACKNOWLEDGED AT ONCE VALIDITY OF MY VIEWS AND AFFIRMED VIGOROUSLY THAT IN THEIR OWN MINDS THERE NO DOUBT SUCH ACCUSATIONS ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. SULTAN ASKED SHARPLY WHICH SAUDI NEWSPAPER HAD COMMENTED ON CHARGES OF US IMPLICATION IN ISRAELI RAID. I SAID WE HAD NOTED ONE EDITORIAL IN AL- MEDINA BUT THAT I DID NOT WISH CAUSE EDITOR DIFFICULTY FOR WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN TEMPORARY ABERRATION. SULTAN NODDED BUT DID NOT INDICATE WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, HE WOULD TAKE. (IF FACT, SALAH A- DIN, EDITOR OF AL- MEDINA, IS MOST CAPABLE SAUDI EDITOR, USUALLY FRIENDLY TO US, AND SHARP REPRIMAND OR OTHER ACTION BY SULTAN ATTRIBUTABLE TO EMBASSY COULD DO US MORE DAMAGE THAN GOOD, PARTICULARLY SINCE PAPER HAS CARRIED ONLY ONE COMMENT ON SUBJECT.)

3. OTHERWISE SAUDI PRESS AND RADIO HAVE CONTINUED, WITH EXCEPTION OF INSTANCE MENTIONED ABOVE, REPORT ON ENTIRE SUBJECT IN ONLY MOST LIMITED MANNER AND TO GIVE NO CREDENCE TO WILD CHARGES BEING CIRCULATED BY OTHER ARAB MEDIA. MOST OF PRESS HERE WELL ENOUGH AWARE OF SAG POLICY OF FORBIDDING INFLAMMATORY CRITICISM OF US AND PROBABLY HAS NOT HAD TO BE REMINDED OF IMPROPRIETY OF GIVING ANY ENDORSEMENT TO CHARGES OF US INVOLVEMENT. THACHER

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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